

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL LOS ANGELES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016783

EXDIS TOSEC 003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CH, US

SUBJECT: HUANG CHEN AND ANTI-SKYJACKING PROCEDURES

FOR SECRETARY FROM HABIB

1. PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN HAS STOPPED OFF FOR "PRIVATE VISITS" IN HONOLULU AND SAN FRANCISCO EN ROUTE BACK TO WASHINGTON. PRCLO DECLINED OUR OFFER TO ASSIST IN MAKING ANY ARRANGEMENTS.
2. HUANG CHEN AND PARTY OF SIX REFUSED TO GO THROUGH ANTI-SKYJACKING PROCEDURES IN HONOLULU, INCLUDING AIRLINE PROPOSAL TO DO IT INFORMALLY IN VIP LOUNGE. AT LAST MINUTE (PLANE DEPARTURE WAS DELAYED), PROBLEM RESOLVED BY STATE DEPARTMENT RECEPTION CENTER TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR LETTING THEM BOARD WITHOUT GOING THROUGH NORMAL PROCEDURES.
3. SAME PROBLEM LIKELY ARISE WHEN THEY DEPART SAN

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FRANCISCO ON UNITED FLIGHT 50 AT 0845 FRIDAY JANUARY 24.

UNITED SAYS IT PLANS NO SPECIAL DISPENSATION, SINCE IT WOULD BE LIABLE TO FINE UNDER USG REGULATIONS.

4. ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT

DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM ANTI-HIJACKING PROCEDURES, AND THIS WAS EXPLAINED SOME TIME AGO TO PRCLO (WHICH MAY BE WHY PRCLO HAS NOT REQUESTED DEPARTMENT ARRANGE FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT THIS TIME). OTHER DIPLOMATS COMPLY, ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY AIRLINES THEMSELVES APPARENTLY MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT DOBRYNIN DOES NOT GO THROUGH ANTI-HIJACKING PROCEDURES AT DULLES AIRPORT WHEN HE LEAVES THE COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH STATE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT MAKE SPECIAL REQUEST.)

5. WE INTEND TO TRY TO HAVE DEPARTMENT SECURITY OFFICER IN SAN FRANCISCO SOLVE THE PROBLEM BY TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH THIS IS NORMALLY DONE ONLY WHEN THE OFFICER IS ACCOMPANYING A FOREIGN VIP ON HIS TRAVELS. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD SUBSEQUENTLY CONSIDER HOW BEST TO INFORM PRCLO THAT IN FUTURE THEIR PERSONNEL WILL BE SUBJECT TO SAME ANTI-HIJACKING PROCEDURES AS ALL OTHER DIPLOMATS AND THAT STATE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT INTERVENE TO MAKE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS.

6. ONE REASON WE ARE INCLINED TO TRY TO SOLVE THE SAN FRANCISCO PROBLEM THIS TIME IS THAT HUANG'S SAN FRANCISCO VISIT HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. DURING A DINNER FOR HIM WHICH THE MAYOR ALSO ATTENDED, HUANG CHEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT GO TO SAN FRANCISCO IF ARRANGEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE ELSEWHERE IN US CAN BE MADE. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT THIS MEANS BUT IT IS INTERESTING BECAUSE PRC REJECTED OUR REQUEST FOR A SHOWING IN SAN FRANCISCO IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON AND KANSAS CITY. INGERSOLL

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